



# The Hour

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## NEWS-KEY

Italian Fascist Activity .....	page 1
Appeasers Hold Street Rallies .....	" 2
Marshall's Henchmen Join America First .....	" 3
Fifth Column Moves Underground .....	" 4

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### FASCIST ITALIANS INTENSIFY U. S. DRIVE

#### Concentrate on Campaign to Raise Funds for Mussolini

Tomorrow, a mass meeting of Italian-Americans is scheduled at Madison Square Garden, New York City. Its announced purpose is to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Guiseppe Verdi, famous Italian operatic composer. Actually the affair is part of the fascist Italian campaign in the United States to stimulate moral and financial aid for Mussolini's present war effort.

The Federation of Italian War Veterans in the U. S. A. is sponsoring the meeting. The funds raised are to go to the "Italian Relief Fund" or Fondo Opere Assistenziali d'Italia, the official fascist "welfare" agency in Italy. The price of admission tickets ranges from \$1.00 to \$5.00. Fund-raising appeals at the meeting will claim that the money collected is "to help the needy civilians in Italy to receive food and clothing." The intention is to play upon the humanitarian inclinations of Italian-Americans and upon their natural love for the countrymen of their native land.

#### Fascist Federation

As we have previously pointed out in The Hour, the Federation of Italian War Veterans in the U. S. A. is nothing more than the American branch of the official Fascist Italian War Veterans Association, the president of which is appointed by Il Duce himself. We have also revealed that the Opere Assistenziali is an official fascist agency, and that its drive for funds in this country has the assistance of Italian consuls and other fascist functionaries and organizations in the United States. The real aim of the fund, according to the reliable anti-fascist Italian News Service of New York, is "to feed the exhausted finances of Fascism." The News Service states:

"The very presence of one of the high officials of an Italian banking house goes to show that the whole thing has been set up to find some new sources for the financing for Fascism. It should already be known that no private

concern can send foreign currency to Italy, and that the only official purchaser of it is the Italian Government through its agencies ..."

On April 1, press dispatches from Washington announced that the State Department was investigating the Federation of Italian World War Veterans on charges that this organization "was not properly using funds collected for relief purposes." A few days later Antonio Corigliano, head of the Bank of Naples Trust Company in New York and director of the Italian War Veterans' fund-raising campaign, admitted in an interview with the press that there was a "theoretical possibility" the money collected was not ultimately being used for the purposes publicly stated. As one newspaper account stated: "Neither Corigliano nor Dr. Francesco Renzulli, president of the war veterans, could say what actually happens to the credit here which, in the form of lire, is released to the Italian Government's Opere Assistenziali, the official fascist welfare agency."

### Fascists Rally to Aid Meeting

Every Italian fascist agent and sympathizer is lending support to the Madison Square Garden meeting. Il Grido della Stirpe, fascist weekly edited by the fanatical Domenico Trombetta, devoted two full pages of its April 19 issue to publicizing the meeting. The paper declares, "All Italians worthy of the name will attend as a sacrosanct duty." Il Progresso Italo-Americano and Il Corriere d'America, the publications of the well-known New York contractor and fascist-sympathizer Generoso Pope, are advertising the gathering with like fervor.

To date, the Italian War Veterans are said to have collected about a quarter of a million dollars in the United States. This money is going into the coffers of the Fascist Italian Government. It is being collected clearly under false pretenses. The Hour wonders how long the United States authorities will continue to tolerate such aid to the fascists.

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### AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE AND JOSEPH MCWILLIAMS PLAN CAMPAIGN OF STREET MEETINGS

Street corner meetings sponsored by the various appeasement, pro-fascist groups have already begun to make their appearance in New York City. To date the most active sponsor of such meetings is the America First Committee. Since Lindbergh's April 30 speech at Manhattan Center, approximately thirty such meetings have been held, usually in the better residential districts of the city. A number of these gatherings have taken place on Fifth Avenue. Forty-second Street and Fifth is the favorite spot for these "peace" rallies.

The technique of the meetings varies scarcely at all. The speaker mounts his portable platform. He stands under an American flag. He tells the crowd that a "small minority of financiers" is trying to get us into this war. He avoids openly anti-Semitic remarks; he merely indulges in innuendoes. All mention of the progressive forces in this country is



markedly absent from his speech. He never speaks about a fight for democratic rights; in fact, he rarely utters the word "democracy." His hero is Charles A. Lindbergh and his concept of a wise man is Father Coughlin.

The speaker is usually heard by an audience of some two hundred persons, most of them passers-by who stop to listen out of curiosity. Heckling is frequent. To date, as far as The Hour can learn, there have been no incidents of violence. But all reports describe a tense atmosphere at these street corner meetings. It is to be expected that the Christian Fronters, who play an important part at these meetings, will not hesitate much longer to use force against hecklers in the crowds.

A Reverend Charles A. White, allegedly an Episcopalian minister, is in charge of the extensive speakers' bureau maintained by the America First Committee at their offices at 515 Madison Avenue. He does not have a church and his name is not listed in the directory of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America. He himself is a frequent speaker for the Committee. Wearing his clerical collar, he opens the meetings at which he talks. He is usually followed by three to five speakers, whose addresses last for about fifteen minutes each.

No questions are permitted at these meetings.

#### McWilliams Prepares His Campaign

Joseph McWilliams, who has been following with admiration the "success" of the America First street corner meetings, is soon to launch his own campaign along similar lines. He plans to abandon his covered wagon of last year. "A huge American flag will be enough," he says. The territory he will concentrate on includes Yorkville, the Bronx and Astoria, Long Island.

Four veteran Coughlinite orators, James Stewart, James Downey, Henry Curtiss, and Frank Woodruff, are already picked to work with McWilliams; and he expects to increase this crew of rabble-rousers in the near future.

The content of his speeches and those of his henchmen is to be modeled on that of the America First speakers, although the McWilliams' gang intends to make much more vigorous use of the tactic of Jew-baiting.

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#### AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE ABSORBS FORMER EMPLOYEES OF VERNE MARSHALL

The America First Committee is taking over workers dismissed from Verne Marshall's No Foreign War Committee, which has completely collapsed. Among the Marshall men who have now joined the Lindbergh organization is Walter Springer. Several of his old associates have accompanied

him. Former volunteer workers for the No Foreign War Committee are also being routed to the America First offices.

Mrs. Geraldine Parker, who was one of Verne Marshall's key assistants, is at present working in close cooperation with the America First Committee. Officially she is known as the executive secretary of Women United, an isolationist-appeasement group. But The Hour learns that this organization is actually the women's auxiliary of the America First Committee. An example of the intimate relationship between these two groups is the fact that the America First offices handled the extensive mailings made by Women United in connection with a meeting they sponsored at Carnegie Hall on April 14.

We are informed that Women United is planning to hold a march on Washington toward the end of this month. It will resemble the parade led some weeks ago by Nazi-admirer Elizabeth Dilling. Picketing of the White House and of the Senate are to be part of the program. Although the affair will be staged under the auspices of Women United, it is quite apparent that the America First Committee is in the background pulling the strings.

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#### UNDERGROUND PREPARATIONS OF U. S. FIFTH COLUMN

Three months ago, Joseph E. McWilliams, leader of the American Destiny Party, told his henchmen, "We'll soon have to meet in kitchens with the blinds drawn, and if they get us there we'll have to go into the cellar." His remark, despite its unintentional humor, is not without significance. Plans are being drawn up by U. S. Fifth Columnists for underground operations.

A number of fascist groups are officially "closing up," in order that they may carry on their activities more effectively in some new form. An example is John B. Snow's League for Constitutional Government, formerly located at 18 East 48th Street, New York City. Snow used Madison & Marshall Co. to act as a publishing front for his League. Madison & Marshall, operating from the same office as the League, brought out books by Neta Webster, British fascist; Elizabeth Dilling, authoress of The Red Network; and Fred R. Marvin, whose literary efforts are on the recommended reading list put out by World Service, the Nazi propaganda agency at Hamburg, Germany. Today the offices of the League and the printing house are shut down. Where the former occupants have gone remains a mystery.

Scribner's Commentator, mouthpiece for U. S. appeasers and Fifth Columnists, has also undergone strange changes. Telephone calls to its office meet with the response, "Telephone disconnected." The swanky quarters at 654 Madison Avenue are empty. Those inquiring about the new location of the publication are informed that the magazine "has moved out of town, to Lake Geneva, Wisconsin."

Peter Stahrenberg, Nazi publicist and editor of the National American, has not been heard from in several months. It is said that he has gone "into hiding." Naziphile Charles B. Hudson, editor of America In Danger!, sets the keynote in the April 21 issue of his publication. Solemnly he observes: "Now is the time for small group meetings, held secretly in your homes."